

Dear Parents/ Carers

Re: Please find here key changes/ reminders related to the new risk assessment, plucked out of the main document for ease of digestion.

I will write to you tomorrow to outline our approach to learning and school life going forward from the 8th.

Please note though that for the full information you will need to go to the full risk assessment. Changes have been made here to try to 'normalise' the school experience for pupils. Please be reassured though that we are ever mindful of limiting risks.

The full risk assessment is coming your way once more and will find its way onto the website once we are sure there are no issues/ inconsistencies.

GETTING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

The drop off zone will be open again for dropping KS2 pupils from cars - extra safety measures will be put in place to ensure safe flow of pedestrians into school and back up.

ENTERING SCHOOL: how

We have looked to simplify this. Entry and exit is now between two times as opposed to staggered by year group.

Please no 'gathering' at school gates. Given the number of people approaching the school gates, please refrain from staying around and making polite, friendly conversation once you have dropped off or picked up your child.

Question: Walking up Bell Lane to take the children around to the five bar gate on the common was actually really quite dangerous! Can the school review risk?

Response:

1. The school has agreed with the church for parents to be able to make their way through the church grounds, to the left of the grounds, following the line of the Bell Lane wall up to the gate onto the NT car park (and back again). Care will need to be taken coming onto the car park from this gate.

2. We will attempt to cone off one side of Bell Lane and encourage pedestrians to use this walk way when traffic is in the road.

ENTERING SCHOOL: where and when

School starts at 8.50. (except Nursery who start at 9.00)

There are no staggered times but pupils can arrive any time from 8.35 (Nursery from 8.50).

Please note after school starts - gates will be closed and pupils arriving later will need to come via the school office. Parents/ children will need to queue up alongside the building outside the office and a member of the team will receive children at the door.

The 'drop off zone' will enable KS2 pupils to be dropped off at the top of the car park or further down to drop off 3/4 pupils. KS1 pupils still need to be dropped personally through the gate onto the common or up to steps by the main entrance. The pedestrian zone which has been within cones (ie for those heading back up the hill) will now be sectioned off with solid barriers.

Please try to adhere tightly to the drop off time. Please avoid arriving too soon or too late. We are looking to engineer as normal a start to the school day as possible- a start at 8.50. Please aim to drop off no later than 8.50am.

Please know that if you have children to drop off in multiple year groups and across key stages, the school will be accommodating and understanding regarding timing and/or the need to cross the playground to get to the other side of the school and/or dropping off one child on the way to dropping off another (eg Sapphire child dropped off on way to Rec/Yr 1 drop off).

Nursery arrive 8.50 am onwards via main Nursery entrance

Year 1/ Rec arrive 8.35am onwards (up till 8.50)-by the 5 bar common gate and walk accompanied (using 1 way system) down to Rec/Yr 1 outdoor learning area

Year 2 arrive 8.35am onwards (up till 8.50)- both classes (Azure and Indigo) up steps to Azure and through Azure.

Year 3/4 8.35am onwards (up till 8.50) through gate onto middle playground

Year 5/6 arrive 8.35am onwards (up till 8.50) through gate at top of car park

EXITING SCHOOL: where and when

Nursery - pick up 12 noon from 5-bar gate outside Nursery main entrance
at 2.50 pm from 5-bar gate outside Nursery main entrance

Rec/ Yr 1- pick up from 3.05 from the Rec/Yr 1 playground via the 5 bar common gate. Please queue up as before

Year 2- pick up from 3.05 from steps outside Azure

Year 3/4- pick from 3.10 by the 5 bar gate onto bottom playground

Year 5/6- pick up from 3.10 by the 5 bar gate by long jump pit

As above parents picking up from Rec and Yr 1 now able to cross the middle playground to other side of school rather than going around and down Church Lane. However please to stay very mindful of children in the playground coming in from PE etc and please to walk straight to the bottom playground gate to exit the premises.

Class teachers to be mindful that from 3.05 pm parents will be crossing the playground and to either bring their classes in from PE before 3.00 or keep class distanced from parents crossing.

Childminders to wait on the middle playground- bottom playground where Yr 3/4 collecting.

WHAT DO MY CHILDREN BRING TO SCHOOL?

Remember to bring in inhalers and medication on the first day back

Washing bags daily can be onerous to the point of impractical or unsustainable. Please use book bags from now on. We will look to avoid unnecessary touching of bags if you look to give them a good airing when they go home.

Healthy snack- fruit-- fruit is being provided for KS1 again

What should they wear?

Shoes that are practical and sensible for outdoor learning...as in school shoes but trainers acceptable in the circumstances, no flip-flops. For the younger pupils- shoes that don't have laces or children that can tie laces. **Do your best please- shoe shops yet to open but we will be having a PTA run shoe swap afternoon soon.**

All pupils need wellies in school.

PE kit is required and should be in line with the school uniform code- see 'information' tab on website. These will be kept in school in a separate bag for the duration of a half term. Pupils will not be able to borrow PE kit as they have been doing so it is imperative that this kit comes in at the beginning of term and stays in school. If a pupil does not have a PE kit, they will not be able to take part in PE so please ensure they keep it in school. A separate kit for sports clubs is perhaps advisable to avoid them bringing it home after the club.

PLAYTIMES

Bubbles stay within their own areas during playtime.

KS1 and KS2 take it in turns to be on the field (in boots if necessary) in two allocated zones or on 'grey' playground in two allocated zones.

LUNCHTIMES

Lunches will be as normal as possible- (ie packed lunch and hot dinners) in two sittings. Bubbles separated in the hall by a 5 metre 'no go' zone and barriers

KS1 and KS2 take it in turns to be on the field in two allocated zones or on tarmac in two allocated zones.

BREAKFAST CLUB AND FUN CLUB

Pick up times to be 5pm and 5.30pm only. KS1 will be picked up from the bottom playground, KS2 from the middle playground. Parents to wait on the bottom playground.

We require two working days' notice for inclusion in the club.

HOME LEARNING

See Remote Learning Policy on website

<https://www.minchacademy.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Remote-Learning-Plan-Jan-21.pdf>